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# INFORMATION REPORT

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## REPORT

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SUBJECT Central Store for Medicines and Drugs  
(Centrofarm)

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1. The Central Store for Medicines and Drugs (Centrofarm), whose head office is at 48 Strada Aviator Sanatescu, Bucharest, is under the Ministry of Health. The staff of the head office consists of 350 clerks and other personnel, and the sales store employs approximately 140 men, including clerks, salesmen and others.
2. Centrofarm supplies raw materials to all factories producing medicines and drugs, and in turn supplies the medicines and drugs to pharmacies and drugstores, except those in Bucharest and the surrounding area, which are supplied by the Centrofarm depot at No. 8 Strada Sfântul Ionica, Bucharest.
3. The main depot, also located at 48 Strada Aviator Sanatescu, consists of several brick buildings with tin roofs and a few huts, which formerly belonged to the Ministry of Health. Many tons of raw materials and drugs are always stored at this depot.
4. The Standard drugstore was not nationalized until some months after general nationalization, as the owners had good connections with the Soviets. On leaving Rumania, the owners (Karmitz Brothers) left behind factory buildings and installations valued at 3,000 million stabilized lei. The following depots formerly belonging to Standard were taken over by Centrofarm:
  - a. Depot for medicines at No. 8 Strada Sfântul Ionica, Bucharest;
  - b. Depot for raw materials and chemicals on Calea Dorobanti, Bucharest;
  - c. Depot for raw materials and chemicals on Strada Felix, Bucharest.

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- 2 -

5. In 1951, imports from the USSR included large quantities of amidopyrine, aspirin, phenacetin, sodium salicylate, and small quantities of morphium, papaverine, pylocarpine, strophanthin, dyomine (sic), and novar, a Soviet type of neosalvarsan. The penicillin originally imported from the USSR had to be kept on ice and lost its efficacy after a certain period. Later, small quantities of heat-resistant penicillin were imported. Imports from the USSR have now stopped and the drug is obtained from factories in the United States, Great Britain, Switzerland and Sweden. Some of the drugs and chemicals imported from the USSR bear Soviet labels on the outside but are marked "Made in Germany" on the inside.
6. During 1949 and 1950, two commissions were sent to Czechoslovakia and Hungary to purchase German drugs against compensation payments which were still outstanding. The leader of the purchasing commission was reported to have been arrested later, although the quality of the goods was satisfactory. The purchase included large quantities of anti-malaria drugs, and anti-syphilis drugs (produced by Bayer and Merck and by Chinoin, Hungary).
7. The factories of the Ministry of Health manufacture imitations of a number of foreign specialties and sell these under new names. The French rodonal, for instance, is sold as disuric, urosolvan and uralit. Lithines, as made by Dr. Gustin, is called lithinal.
8. Rare specialties are imported from Czechoslovakia and go exclusively to the Elias State Hospital, which is used by members of the Central Committee.
9. In 1949, there was attached to Centrofarm a trade school which was to train druggists in six months courses, working four hours a day. The curriculum included elementary chemistry, mathematics, study of medicines (names and composition), and ideology. A first group of 30 clerks and laborers attended, and seven received diplomas as druggists.
10. Sabotage or negligence may have been the cause of the following accidents which occurred during 1949-1950:
  - a. In place of barium sulphate for addition to test meals for patients about to be x-rayed, small packages of 30 gram of protease ipsos (sic) were furnished, and some deaths occurred as a result. The investigations were inconclusive.
  - b. One or two barrels of highly purified medical oil were furnished in place of turpentine. (The medical oil costs about 1,000 lei per liter and turpentine 300 lei per liter.)
  - c. The managers of several pharmaceutical factories were arrested and all their products withdrawn from the market because of deaths following the use of calcium products which hardened in the body, and also because of badly prepared salicylic acid (used against rheumatism) and products based on sodium salicylate.
11. The following personalities are known:
  - a. Jean Coravu (formerly Zwiebel), general manager of Centrofarm head office. [REDACTED]

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- 3 -

- 25X1 b. Klekner, head of Centrofarm sales store, Bucharest. [REDACTED]  
25X1 [REDACTED]  
25X1 c. Glueck, head of the sales department of the head office. [REDACTED]  
25X1 [REDACTED]  
25X1 d. Haensel, chemist at the head office. [REDACTED]  
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